

REMARKS

In the April 4, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 8, 9, 22, 23, 36, 37 and 44 “would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims,” but otherwise maintained the earlier provisional double patenting and anticipation rejections of claims 1-7, 10-21, 24-35, 38-43 and 45-48. As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s indication that claims 8, 9, 22, 23, 36, 37 and 44 contain allowable subject matter, and look forward to obtaining allowance of these claims.

In order to expedite allowance of the application, claims 8, 22, 36 and 44 have been amended to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims. While the final Office Action references “rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph,” Applicants submit that there are no such rejections in the final Office Action and that the pending claims therefore may be allowed. By amending claims 8, 22, 36 and 44 and cancelling claims 1-7, 10-21, 24-35, 38-43 and 45-48 from further consideration in this application, Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amendments are permitted under 35 CFR § 1.116(b)(1), and respectfully request that claims 8, 9, 22, 23, 36, 37 and 44 be allowed.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

FILED ELECTRONICALLY
June 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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